

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A connector for use in a model train, comprising:
a first coupling member associated with a first model train car;
a second coupling member associated with a second model train car, wherein said second coupling member is configured for engagement with said first coupling member;
a first layer of electrically conductive material connected to a first circuit and disposed upon the surface of said first coupling member; and
a second layer of electrically conductive material connected to a second circuit and disposed upon the surface of said second coupling member, so as to result in said first and second model train cars being mechanically and electrically connected when said first and second coupling members are engaged with each other, and wherein said first and second layers of electrically conductive material are comprised of a flexible electrically conductive material.
2. (Currently amended) A connector in accordance with claim 1 wherein said first and second layers of electrically conductive material are comprised of a ~~flexible electrically conductive~~ resilient phosphor bronze material.
3. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 1 wherein said first and second layers of electrically conductive material further include a plurality of electrically conductive elements.

4. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 3 wherein said plurality of electrically conductive elements are separated by a plurality of intervening portions of insulation.

5. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
a first layer of insulating material disposed between said first layer of electrically conductive material and the surface of said first coupling member; and
a second layer of electrically conductive material disposed between said second layer of electrically conductive material and the surface of said second coupling member.

6. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said first coupling member includes a horizontal portion having a top and a bottom side, and a vertical portion having an inner and an outer side, wherein said vertical portion is located at a distal end of said horizontal portion and is configured so as to be perpendicular thereto, thereby forming a drawbar; and
said second coupling member includes a top and a bottom side and is configured horizontally so as to be parallel with said horizontal portion of said first member, said second coupling member, said aperture being configured to receive said vertical portion of said first coupling member.

7. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 6 wherein said first and second layers of electrically conductive material further include a plurality of electrically conductive elements.

8. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 7 wherein said plurality of electrically conductive elements are separated by a plurality of intervening portions of insulation.

9. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 6 wherein:

said first layer of conductive material is continuously disposed on said top side of said horizontal portion and said outer side of said vertical portion of said first coupling member; and

said second layer of conductive material is disposed on said bottom side of said second coupling member, said second layer further including an arcuate portion extending from said bottom side of said second coupling member to said first layer of electrically conductive material when said first and second coupling members are engaged.

10. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 9 further comprising:

a first insulating layer disposed between said first electrically conductive layer and said top side and outer side of said horizontal and vertical portions of said first coupling member; and

a second insulating layer disposed between said second electrically conductive layer and said bottom side of said second coupling member.

11. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 1 wherein said first coupling member is attached to the rear end of said first model train car and said second coupling member is attached to the front end of said second train car so as to form a train when said first and second train cars are connected.

12. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 1 wherein each of said first and second coupling members are formed in the shape of the letter "C" and configured so as to be interlocking when said first and second coupling members are engaged with each other, each of said first and second "C" shaped coupling members further having an inner and an outer surface.

13. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 12 wherein said first and second layers of said electrically conductive material are disposed on a portion of the surface of each of said first and second "C" shaped coupling members so as to be in electrical contact when said coupling members are engaged.

14. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 13 further comprising:
a first layer of insulating material disposed between said inner surface of said first coupling member and said first layer of electrically conductive material; and
a second layer of insulating material disposed between said inner surface of said second coupling member and said second layer of electrically conductive material.

15. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 13 wherein each of said first and second layers of electrically conductive material include a plurality of electrically conductive elements.

16. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 15 wherein said plurality of electrically conductive elements are separated by a plurality of intervening portions of insulating material.

Serial No. 10/802,226
March 30, 2005
Page 6

17. (Original) A connector in accordance with claim 12 wherein said first coupling member is attached to the rear end of said first model train car and said second coupling member is attached to the front of said second model train car so as to form a train when said first and second train cars are connected.

18-24. (Cancelled)